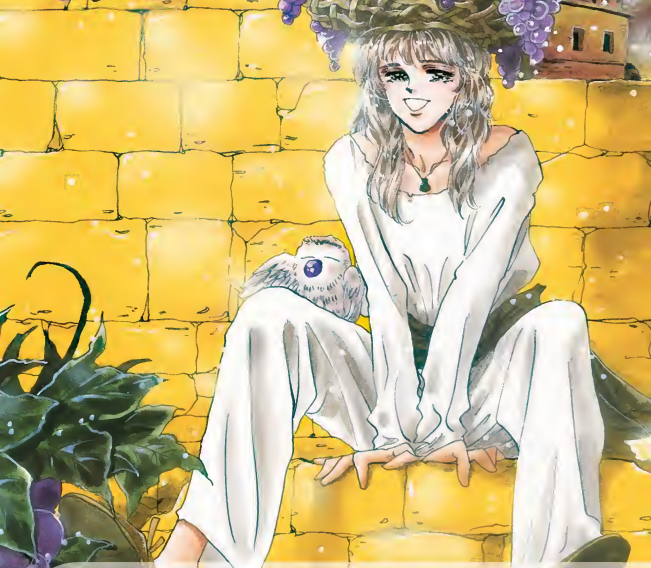




shôjo

BASARA



Story and Art by **Yumi Tamura**

Vol.13



shōjo

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Yumi Tamura

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Vol. #13

Shôjo Edition

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In the early 21st century, an apocalypse turned fertile lands into deserts and brought human civilization to its knees. Control of Japan passed into the hands of tyrannical kings. Three hundred years later, a new hope was born.

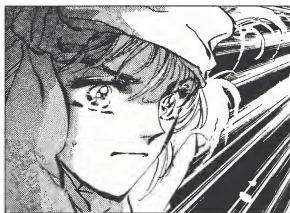
At the birth of a rebel chieftain's twins, the blind prophet Nagi predicted, "This is a child of destiny, one who will grow to lead the people and be the light in the sky of our nation's future." The people of Byakko Village placed their hopes in Tatara, their Chief's son, raising him as the "Boy of Destiny."

With the tyrannical Ukon XV ruling Japan through his ruthless sons, a better tomorrow can only be achieved through strife and bloodshed. When the "Boy of Destiny" is killed by the Red King's forces, it is up to his twin sister Sarasa to lead their people in his name, or all will be lost.

Sarasa has achieved victory over the Red King in Kyushu and the Blue King in Seiran, gaining many allies along the way. The Red King's recklessness inspired a coup. Sarasa nearly lost her sight. Sarasa headed to Okinawa to heal her eyes and Shuri fled his betrayers. Together, they helped to keep Okinawa free from Japan's tyrannical rule.

Upon Sarasa's return, she confesses the truth of her gender to her closest comrades. The reunion is short lived, for Hayato's ship returns without him, bearing a gruesome warning from the people of Kazuno with whom he was to initiate contact. Sarasa's own attempt to gain Kazuno as an ally ends not only in failure but also in getting herself, Ageha and Asagi thrown into Abashiri Prison!

Chaos ensues when Sarasa inspires a prison revolt. When Ageha sets ablaze the narcotic flower fields that had been used to pacify the prisoners, it creates a chain of events that will cause the mines to flood. Thankfully, Kaku arrives and leads them through the same secret escape route he once used decades ago. Prisoners and guards alike flee from Abashiri's collapse only to be faced with harsh winter outside...



Sarasa (disguised as Tatara)

When Sarasa and her twin brother Tatara were born, a prophecy was made. "This is a child of destiny..." The people of Byakko Village assumed Tatara was the "Boy of Destiny," and Sarasa grew up mostly in his shadow. When the Red King's forces kill Tatara, Sarasa takes up her brother's name and fights in his guise, not realizing that ~~she~~ *he* is the real Child of Destiny. Although she has finally confessed her gender to her closest allies, during past visits to hot springs, she has met a curious young man named Shuri, who has been her primary outlet for being completely herself.



Ageha

Capable of staying the hand of a King and arranging for 1000 head of cattle on short notice, this mysterious desert nomad seems to be extremely

informed and influential. He also has a secret identity—Kicho, a famous performer among a traveling troupe of dancing ladies. Ageha lost his left eye when the Red King blinded it as payment for his rescue of 12-year-old Sarasa. Now, he is "Tatara's" slightly mercenary ally. Ageha uses his owl companion, Kagero, to carry messages to his contacts.



Wind Owl

Son of the local king, Wind Owl was the ruler of Abashiri Prison. Paranoid and violent, this young man bears a striking resemblance to Shuri.

Wind Owl, Water Deer and Fire Fox survived a calamity years earlier and continued the prison in order to survive.



Water Deer, Fire Fox, Earth Bear

They once ruled Abashiri Prison, Fox Fire a mere

child aided by his mute servant. While Water Deer and Fox Fire are now just two of the

many survivors of the collapse of the prison, Earth

Bear's true identity has yet to be revealed.



Asagi

His pale skin and refined demeanor belie his ruthlessness and deadly skills. Once one of the Blue King's personal bodyguards, Asagi

allowed the Blue King to die, for Asahi himself is the true Blue King. Allying himself with "Tatara," his participation with the rebels is primarily out of personal curiosity and entertainment, not noble intentions.



Hayato

His deal to pretend to be Tatara for the Red King's cousin, Shido, ended in disaster, so Hayato decided to join the "real" Tatara. He has since learned he's the

descendant of Rasho, leader of the Suzaku, allies of Byakko. He has also saved "Tatara" from Shido. Sent to begin talks of alliance with Kazuno, he was captured and sent to Abashiri Prison.



Kaku

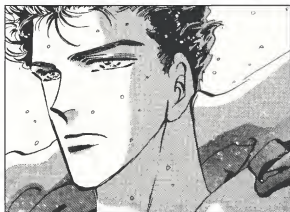
Byakko Village's military advisor and trainer, Kaku is loyal to Sarasa's family and the cause of the "Boy of Destiny." Once a prisoner of Abashiri Prison himself,

Kaku has returned to lead "Tatara" and the others through a secret escape route.



Gan

Oldest of the prisoners in Abashiri, he was there when Kaku escaped.



own, Shuri's interactions with Sarasa reveal hints of his unhealthy family history and his desire to unite Japan in peace. He is now using the title "Tiger King of the Desert" and "Red Tiger."



Nachi

Spirited and daring, Nachi is the son of the head priest at the Great Kumano Hongu Shrine and the second of the Tengu Faction, a somewhat radical group of young Hongu monks that has chosen to aid "Tatara." He is also a skilled sailor, whaler and outdoorsman. Nachi was the only ally who witnessed the capture and internment of Sarasa, Ageha and Asagi, and succeeded in sneaking inside Abashiri Prison to participate in their escape.



Muratake

Rescued from a blizzard by Nachi, Muratake is one of the four elite spies who aid Asagi.



Yuna

Strong, smart and skilled in karate, Yuna is one of Doctor Basho's pupils and engaged to Okinawa's incumbent president, Asato. Her level-headedness has made her a valuable ally to Shuri.



Masunaga

One of the chiefs of Kazuno, Masunaga is the masked man who sent Sarasa and the others to Abashiri Prison.

The Red King

Once in charge of Midwestern Honshu, Shikoku, and Kyushu, he is the youngest of the King of Japan's four sons. Prophesied to bring misfortune, King Ukon branded him a slave. Only a privileged few call him by his name—Shuri. Hounded by threats from abroad and his family, he was a ruthless but effective ruler, crushing those who opposed him. The Byakko Village rebels are just one in a long list of rebel groups he suppressed. But he has been ousted from his throne and is learning to be his own leader, not an extension of his father.

Ignorant of her secret identity and hiding his



Shirasu

One of the more influential prisoners in Hall A, Shirasu was a source of information and aid that Ageha gained with his body.



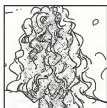
Nanao

This heavily accented and oddly cheerful young man was imprisoned at the same time as Sarasa and the others. He allowed himself to be imprisoned to help his brother Tamon escape.



Nakijin

Serious, kind and skilled in karate, he is one of Doctor Basho's pupils and a long-time friend of Yuna's. He has also followed Shuri from Okinawa.



Tamon

One of the four leaders of Tohoku, this fishing-obsessed young man possesses the sword of Genbu. By helping to rescue him, the region of Kazuno will consider allying themselves with "Tatara."



Momonoi of the North

Councilor to King Ukon, Momonoi has been given authority over Sanyo in the wake of the Red King's coup.

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...AND
SWAM
FOR A
LONG
TIME...

WE
FOLLOWED
THE
CURRENT...

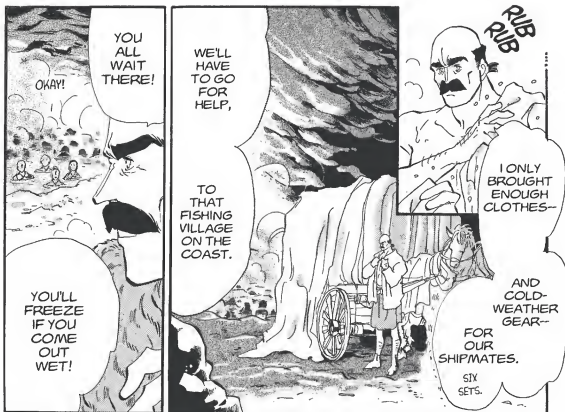


AND
THEN...



SILVER TALE 9: AURORA





TINY TAM-TAM TIME ①

Hello!

Thanks for all your letters of support! BASARA's up to 13 volumes! And I hear it's getting passed around among friends at school, too! ♡

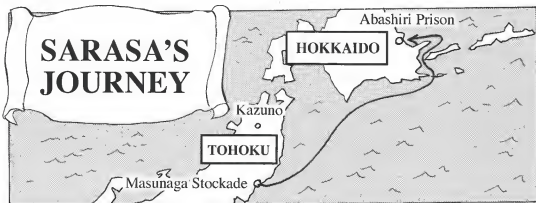
IT'S ONLY AVAILABLE IN JAPAN, BUT...



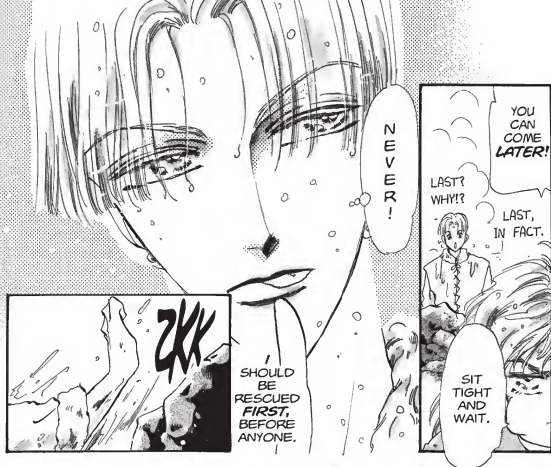
HAVE YOU HEARD THE CD DRAMATIZATION? I WANTED TO MAKE THE COVER YELLOW THIS TIME.

I read all the letters I get! Honest! They make me so happy! (Some people are worried I throw them away without reading them...) But I'm way behind on my replies! I'm sorry! 〆〆 I'll get around to the whole lot of 'em one of these days! (I will!) Please be patient.

TAMU.

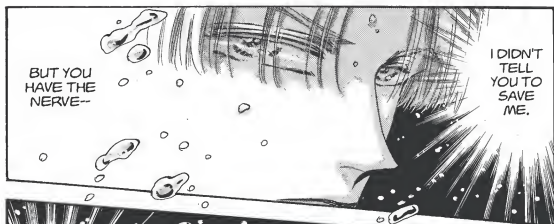






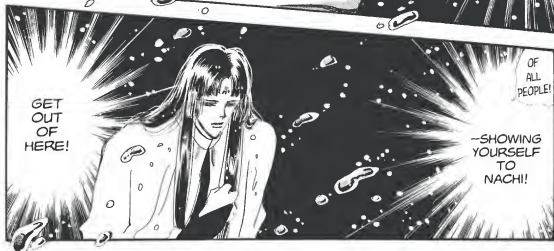
I
SHOULD
BE
RESCUED
FIRST,
BEFORE
ANYONE.





BUT YOU
HAVE THE
NERVE--

I DIDN'T
TELL
YOU TO
SAVE
ME.



GET
OUT
OF
HERE!

OF
ALL
PEOPLE!

--SHOWING
YOURSELF
TO
NACHI!



RRMM

FOOSH



YOU
WANT
A RIDE,
TOO?

HERE!

STOP
IT!

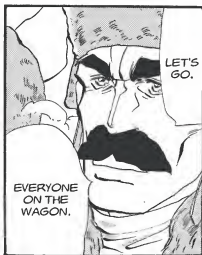
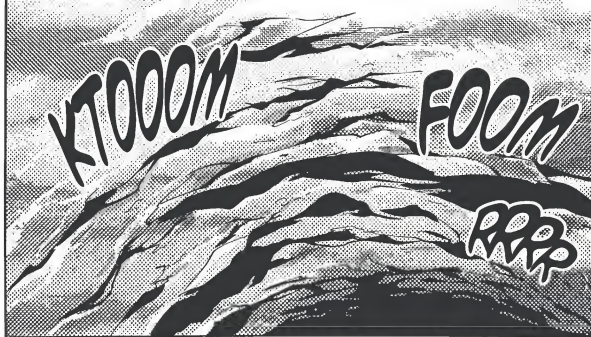


ALWAYS
DIFFICULT.

TATARA.

CAN YOU
TAKE
HIM,
TOO?

THANKS.
I GOT
HURT.





THE
SKY...

HOW
MANY
DAYS
HAS
IT
BEEN...

...SINCE
I'VE SEEN
THE SKY
ABOVE
ME?

...HOW MANY
DAYS HAS
IT BEEN...

...SINCE I CAME
HERE AND LOST
SHINBASHI?



SOMETHING
SO SIMPLE...

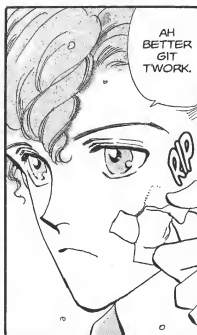
NOW IT
FEELS SO
PRECIOUS.

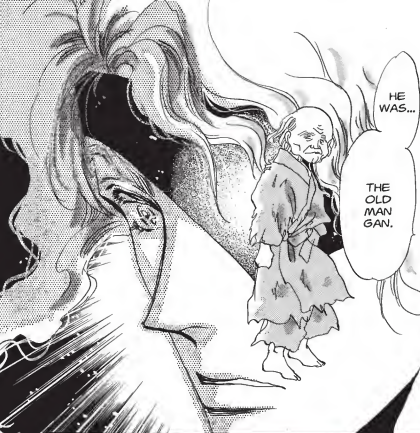
...SO
NATURAL...

THE
SKY...

THEY MEAN
SO MUCH
TO ME...

THE
SUN...





HE WAS...

THE OLD MAN GAN.



NOW THAT WERE OUT,

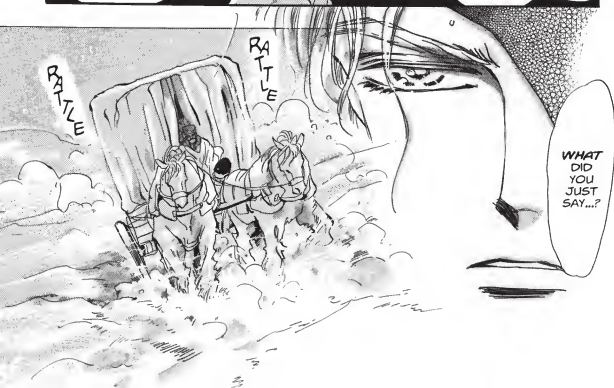
IT DOESN'T MATTER MUCH, ANYMORE.

...IF HED OVERSEE THE OTHERS.



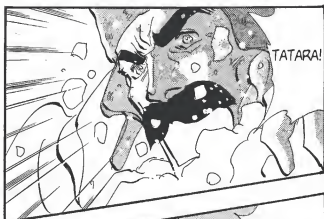
WE TOLD HIM WED TREAT HIM BETTER...

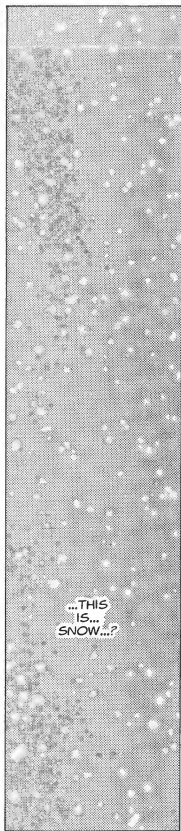
HE WAS A PRISONER ONCE.



WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY...?







...THIS
IS...
SNOW...?



I'LL
LOOK
FOR
TATARA
AND
THE
OTHERS!

SH

BE
CAREFUL
OLD
KAKU!



NACHI-

TAKE
HAYATO
TO
THAT
VILLAGE!

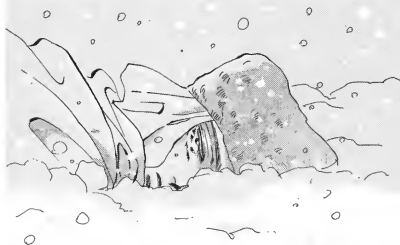
TELL
THEM
EVERY-
THING!

O
K
A
Y
!



IT'S
STARTING
TO
SNOW!

MUST
HURRY!!







YOU
ALWAYS
TALK
LIKE
YOU'RE
SO
TOUGH--

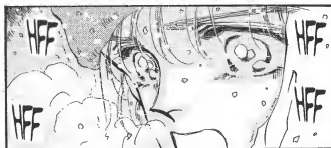
BUT YOU
CAN'T
TAKE THE
WEATHER!?



ASAGI!

ASAGI!!

SNAP
OUT
OF IT!



SHURI...



AFTER
ALL
WE
DID...

...TO
GET
OUT...



MY
THROAT...

...IT
HURTS!



I
WAS
BORN...

I...
I'VE
NEVER
BEEN...

IN
THE
COLD...

...IN
THE
DESERT.



SHURI...

KEEP
ME
WARM.

COME
TO
ME.



ASAGI!?

S-SO
COLD...

IT'S
OVER!

I'M
DYING!



NOT
LIKE
BEFORE...

WHEN
I WOULD
CALL FOR
NAGI...



SHURI...

WHENEVER
THINGS
ARE
HARD...

I HEAR
MYSELF
CALLING
YOUR
NAME.



...I DON'T
KNOW
WHY...

...I CAN'T
IGNORE
HIM...



WHAT
AN
IDIOT.

A
HOPELESS
IDIOT.
BUT...



...IT'S
GROW-
ING
DARK.



YOU'RE
NOT
GOING
TO
DIE!

JUST
HANG
ON!

C'MON!





SO
HUGGING
COOLS
US DOWN...

IN THE
DESERT...

BODIES
ARE
COOLER
THAN THE
AIR.



OH,
WELL.



BUT...



I'LL
NEVER
HAVE...

A
CHANCE
LIKE
THIS
AGAIN.

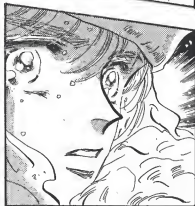
IT
STILL...

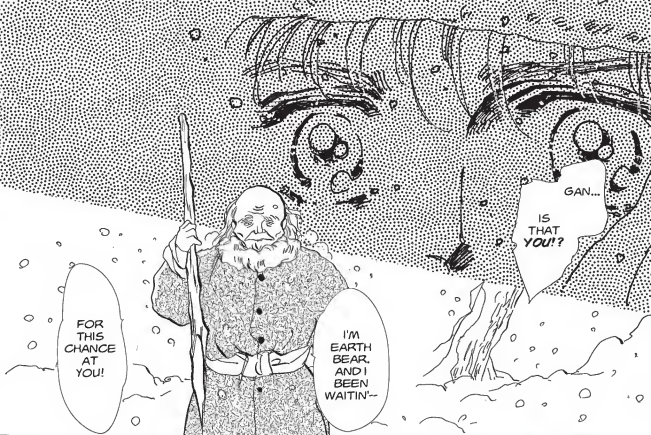
...I
CAN'T
MOVE!



FEELS
SO...

...NICE...







I'M
MAKIN'
YOU
PAY!

DON'T
YOU
SEE!?



KAKU!



KAKU!



TFF

WHAT
ARE
YOU
DOING!?

GAN!



NOBODY
WOULD
COME!

I ASKED
YOU ALL
TO JOIN
ME!

WHO
THOUGHT
YOU'D
ACTUALLY
MAKE
IT!?



AFTER
YOU
GOT
FREE--

HM!?

WHADDA
YTHINK
THEY DID
TO THE
ONES
WHO
STAYED!?



AND
THEN...

THE
OTHER
DAY...

THERE
CAME A
MESSENGER
FROM THE
BLACK
KING...



I
WANTED
OUT...

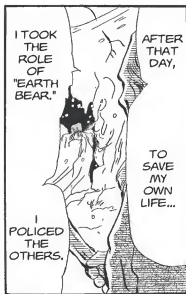
SO
MUCH.



THE
YEARS
WHERE
LONG.

WOULD
YOU
BELIEVE
WE'RE
THE
SAME
AGE?

I
AGED
FAST.



I TOOK
THE
ROLE
OF
"EARTH
BEAR."

I
POLICED
THE
OTHERS.

AFTER
THAT
DAY,

TO
SAVE
MY
OWN
LIFE...



A LITTLE
COMFORT
IN MY
OLD
AGE.

ALL I
WANTED.

THE
BLACK
KING!?

HE
SAID
IF I
KILLED
TATARA...

HE'D
LET ME
OUT...
GIVE ME
MONEY...

LET ME
LEAD A
COMFORTABLE
LIFE.



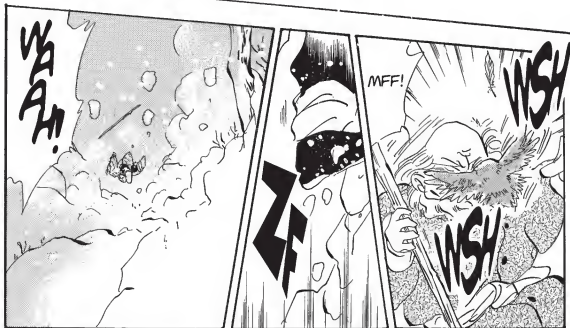
YOU
CAN
DIE!

WELL
THEN...

IF I
CAN'T
KILL
KAKU--

SO
YOU'RE
KAKU'S
FRIEND!

SHAA





SHIN-
BASHI...!





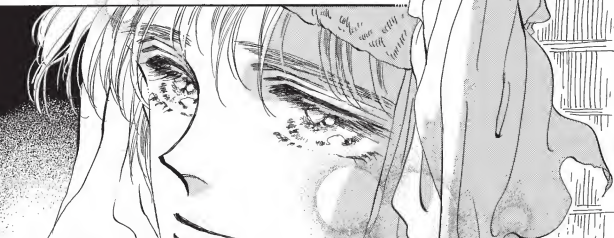




AND YOU
CAN FLY
NOW!



YOU'VE
GOT A
GIRLFRIEND?



...WANT
TO
STAY
HERE?

DO
YOU...



THANK
YOU
SO
MUCH...



...TAKE
GOOD
CARE
OF HIM.

PLEASE...

NICE
AND
WARM!

NOTHIN'
LIKE A
SAUNA!

EVEN IN
THE SNOW!

ABASHIRI
VILLAGE

WOO-HOO

YAI

STOP
THAT.

MWAH!

AGEHA'S
SPECIAL,
THOUGH.

HUH?
I
THOUGHT
YOU
LIKED
MEN!

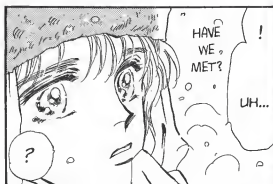
ONLY
BECAUSE
I DIDN'T
HAVE A
CHOICE!

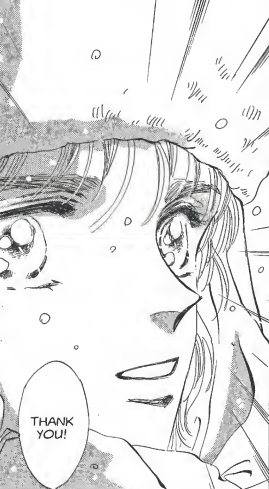
WOO-HOO!

HA!
HA!
HA!

THE
REAL
WORLD!
WITH
REAL
WOMEN!







THANK YOU!



WE
NEED A
FRESH
START
FOR OUR
TALKS.

BUT I'LL
TRY TO
STEER
THEM
TOWARD
AN
ALLIANCE.

THERE
ARE PLENTY
OF
STUBBORN
PEOPLE
IN
TOHOKU--



YOU
ALWAYS
STINK.

THAT'S
WHY
YOU'VE
NEVER
BEEN
MARRIED.

FOOF!



HA,
HA,
HA!



STAY AWAY
FROM FISHING
FOR A WHILE!

WE
WERE
WORRIED
ABOUT
YOU.

HOLD
ON.

AH
STILL
STINK.

ACTUALLY,
I NEVER
WAS.

I
FIGURED
YOU'D
BE FINE.



THEN
COME
TA
KUMANO!

AH'VE
NEVER
CAUGHT
A
WHALE.

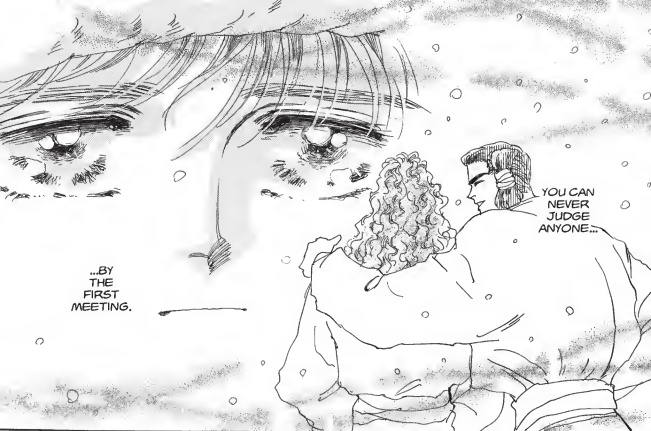
WE'VE
GOT
LOTS!

SURE
NUFF!



TWIK

TAMON!



...BY
THE
FIRST
MEETING.

YOU CAN
NEVER
JUDGE
ANYONE...

WILL
BECOME
REALITY!

OUR
ALLIANCE
WITH
KAZUNO—

I'M GLAD
WE CAME
BACK.



THANK
YOU
SO
MUCH!



THE
BYAKKO
SWORD!

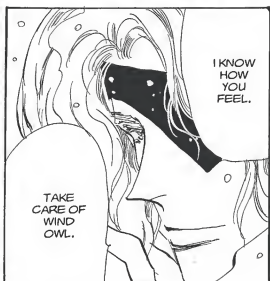
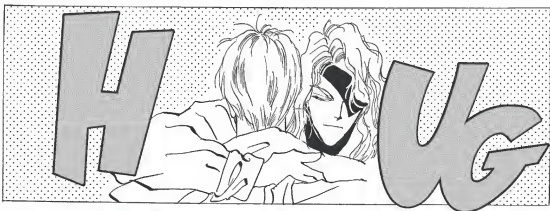


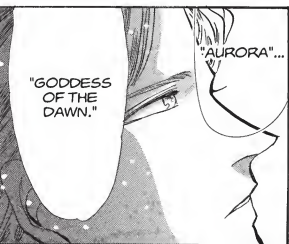
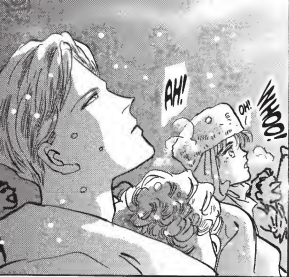
OH,
YES.

IT
WAS
IN BAD
SHAPE...

SO WE
REPAIRED
AND
CLEANED
IT.

I'LL
GIVE
YOU
BACK
YOUR
SWORD.







...ON
THE
LANDS
OF
ABASHIRI.

THE
SUN
HAS
RISEN...



WOO
HOO

HA!
HA!

YAY!



I HAVE
TO RAISE
THIS ONE
PROPERLY.

HEH.

DID YOU
KNOW
"AURORA"
CAN MEAN
"FIRE FOX,"
TOO?



WE'LL
FIGHT
KING
UKON.

WON'T
YOU
COME
WITH
US?



PERHAPS
ONE DAY
WE WILL.

WE'LL
GO TO
TOHOKU
FIRST.



I THINK
HE BEARS
WITH
HIM...

...THE
SAME
SUFFERING
AS
YOU.



HE'S
BRAVE.

CHEERFUL.

ALWAYS
HOPEFUL.

BUT
SOME-
HOW...



I KNOW
SOME-
ONE
WHO
LOOKS...

...A
LOT
LIKE
YOU.



WIND
OWL...



TAKE
CARE.



I...

I
LIKE
HIM...

VERY
MUCH.

IF YOU'RE
CRYING...

AND SO
MANY
THINGS...

SHURI...

THERE'S
SO
MUCH...

I WANT
TO HOLD
YOU.
YOU.

I WANT
TO HOLD
YOU
CLOSE.

...I WANT
TO ASK
YOU,
TOO.

...I WANT
TO TELL
YOU...

I WANT
YOU TO
KEEP ME
WARM.

ONCE
I GO
BACK
SOUTH...

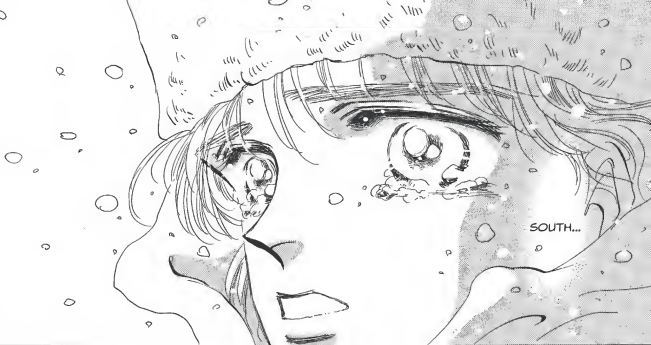
SHURI!

I BELIEVE
I'LL SEE
YOU
AGAIN.

SHURI...











CRIMSON TALE 1: APPROACH

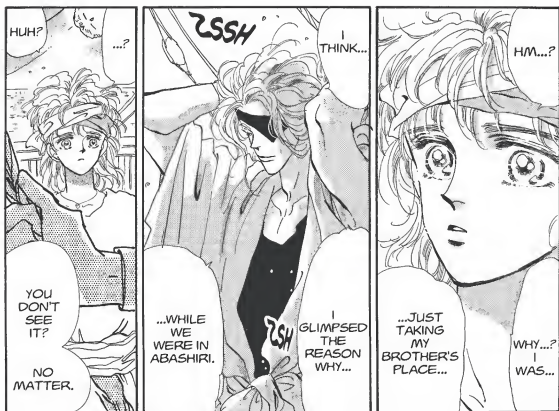




WANT
TO
KNOW
WHY.

WHY IS
"TATARA"
SARASA?

WHY...
IS THE
CHILD OF
DESTINY A
WOMAN?



TINY TAM-TAM TIME ②

I went to Hakata for an autograph session. (Thanks to everybody who came!) They were having a water shortage. (Even in October!) I wonder if they'll be better by the time this book comes out? Maybe they'll be a desert someday like in BASARA...



It's weird. They sell water in the convenience stores, and the other prefectures were having floods with heavy rains. But they still had a shortage...? What's the government doing!?

AND WE PAY HIGH TAXES, TOO!

I'm a little mad. TAMU

SARASA'S JOURNEY





...YOUR
POTENTIAL.



I THINK
I
GLIMPSED...



TATARA!

WE'LL
REACH
SEIRAN
SOON!

WE
SHOULD
REPLENISH
OUR
FOOD
AND
WATER.

WE'RE
STILL
FAR
FROM
KYUSHU.



????

...?



PERFECT!

CAN
YOU
DROP
ME OFF
THERE?

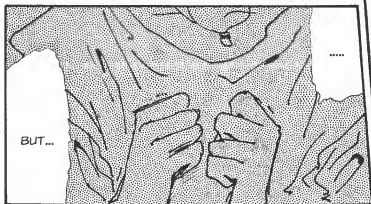


RIGHT.

...AND
GET
HAYATO
TO A
DOCTOR!

KAGERO WAS
IN ABASHIRI,
TOO, BUT
DIDN'T GET
TO SAVE
THE DAY...

SEIRAN?





IT'S
NOT
ABOUT
WHAT YOU
MUST...

OR
SHOULD
DO.

ALWAYS
REMEMBER...

WHAT
YOU
WANT
TO DO.



WHATEVER
YOU
FIND
YOURSELF
DOING...

...SEE
IT
THROUGH.

AGEHA!



AGEHA!

BYE,
SHINBASHI.

LATER! THAT'S
ALL I
HAVE
TO
SAY.



NO!

NO!

AGEHA--



AGEHA!

I DON'T
WANT
YOU
TO GO!

NO!



HELP
ME!

STAY
WITH
ME!

AGEHA--

DON'T
GO!

AGEHA!



YOU
JUST
WANT
ME TO
STAY...









AND ONE LAST THING.



BYE, DADDY.

OH.

PLEASE TAKE CARE OF PRINCESS SENJU.



SEE YOU.

WE'LL MEET AGAIN SOON ENOUGH.



AGEHA...





I BECAME
TOO
COMFORTABLE
WITH
BEING
PROTECTED.

SOME-
WHERE...

CLINGING
TO HIM.
NEEDING
HELP.

...TO
HAVING
HIM BY
MY SIDE.

I
BECAME
ACCUSTOMED...



I'M...

BUT
I'LL
DO MY
BEST.

...NOT
AS
ABLE
AS
AGEHA.



HAYATO?

I'M
SORRY.

HOW
ARE
YOU
FEELING?



TATARA...

KRI!!



I'M
HERE
FOR
YOU.



BUT
I'M
REALLY
FINE
NOW!

.....

TO
GET MY
WOUNDS
LOOKED
AT.

I'M
GOING
ASHORE



NACHI.

DID YOU
TELL
HAYATO
I'M A
GIRL?

YEAH,
I TOLD
HIM.
I
CAN'T SHUT
UP ABOUT
ANYTHING.



HE'S
RIGHT...

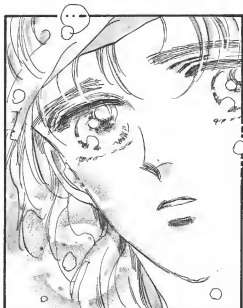
SNIF
HIC

I'M
THE
ONLY ONE
ACTING
LIKE A
KID.



HAYATO...

LOOKS
LIKE
HAYATO
MATURED
A BIT.



I GOTTA
WORK
HARDER...

REALLY,
BUT...



IT...
IT DOESN'T
MATTER
TO ME!

HE
BLUSHED
BEET
RED.

THAT'S
FINE!

HUH!?



I'VE BEEN
SO
NERVOUS...

I WAS
TURNING
MYSELF
INTO A
LOSER
BEFORE
WE EVEN
REACHED
THE
FIGHT!

...ABOUT
FACING
THE
RED
KING



I CAN'T
TALK LIKE
AGEHA,
BUT I
DON'T
MIND...

...IF
YOU
DEPEND
ON ME.



EVERY-
BODY'S
GOTTA
HELP
LAND
'IM!

IF
YOU
HAR-
POON
A BIG
WHALE--



THE
BIG
WHALE
CALLED
THE RED
KING...

AND
HE IS
ABOUT...

...TO
SWALLOW
US
WHOLE!

...IS
GAINING
POWER
IN
SHIKOKU.



I'M
WORRIED
ABOUT
SAKURA-
JIMA.

NACHI.

LET'S
GET THE
CARGO
ON BOARD
AND SET
OFF.

TM
TM

OKAY!



SLAP



EVEN
NOW...

SAKURAJIMA...

CHACHA...

...THE
OTHERS...
MIGHT
GET
ATTACKED.



ASAGI
CAN
STAY
IN
BED.

HE
DID
NEARLY
DIE.

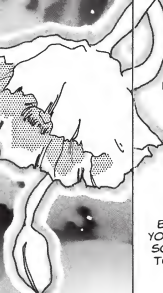


YOU'RE
USELESS!
ALL YOU DO
IS SLEEP!

HEY!

ASAGI,
COME
HERE
AND
HELP
OUT!

I'M
TIRED!



YOU
PROBABLY
WANT TO
TOUGHEN
HER UP.

BUT
YOU'RE
SOFT,
TOO.

YOU, TOO,
AHEGA.
TELLING
ME TO
PROTECT
HER...

...THEN
YOU
GOING
OFF BY
YOURSELF.

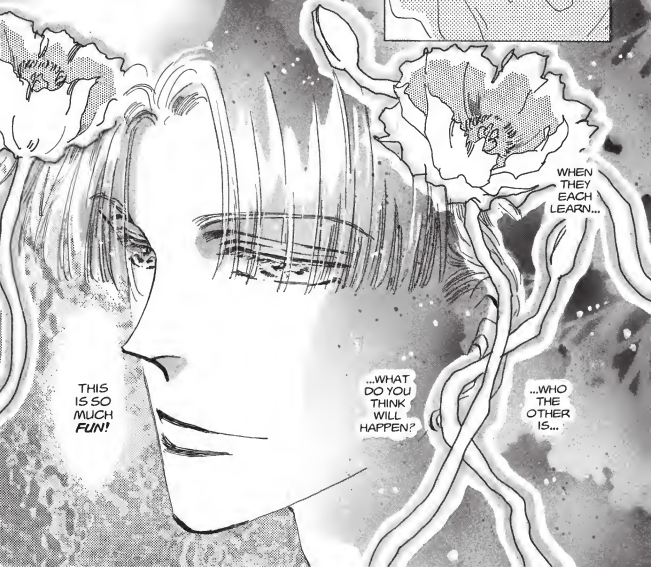


YOU'RE
TOO
SOFT,
TATARA.



YOU
SHOUL'DVE
KILLED
ME WHEN
YOU HAD
THE
CHANCE.

IF WE
GO SOUTH...
WE MIGHT
MEET
SHURI?

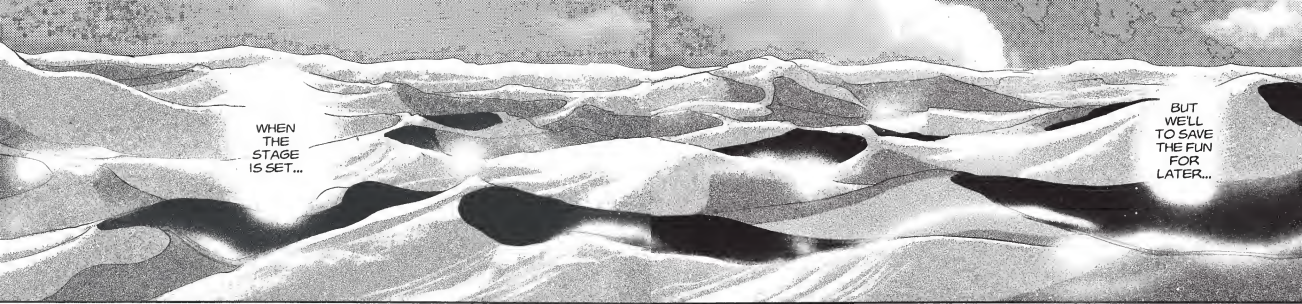


WHEN
THEY
EACH
LEARN...

THIS
IS SO
MUCH
FUN!

...WHAT
DO YOU
THINK
WILL
HAPPEN?

...WHO
THE
OTHER
IS...



WHEN
THE
STAGE
IS SET...

BUT
WE'LL
TO SAVE
THE FUN
FOR
LATER...



GIVE
UP!
SUBMIT
TO
ME!

ARE YOU
GOING
TO KEEP
UP THIS
PIDDLY
DEFENSE!?

HOW
LONG--



KANG

KING

KING

RAAA
RAAA

SHIKOKU

TOSA

KANG RAA

WAA

THE
DRY
BED
OF
YOSHINO
RIVER





NOW,
NOW.
DON'T BE
HASTY,
TIGER
KING.

ONE
WITH
INFLUENCE
ALL OVER
SHIKOKU!!?

I THOUGHT
YOU WERE
THE BIG
MAN--

TEMNA!



WHY...

...EVEN
WITH
PETTY
SHIKOKU!?

...CAN'T
I GET
MY
WAY...



SHURI!

YOU'RE
WORTH-
LESS!

I CAN
ONLY
INFLUENCE
TOSA NOW.

THAT
WAS
A LONG
TIME
AGO.

HA, HA!



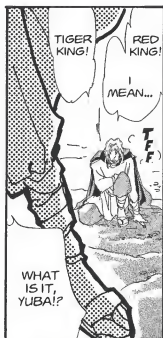
...HOW CAN I
EVER HOPE
TO DEFEAT
TATARA AND
RECAPTURE
SUO?

FEH!

AT THE
RATE THIS
IS GOING...

NO ONE
WILL
FOLLOW
A LEADER
LIKE
THAT!

YOU'VE
GOT TO
STOP
TAKING
YOUR RAGE
OUT ON
OTHERS!



TIGER KING!

RED KING!

I MEAN...

WHAT IS IT, YUBA!?



BUT YOUR COOKING IS GOOD!

I'M NOT IN CHARGE OF YOUR MEALS!



COME ON!

I'M PRAISING YOU! DO WHAT I SAY!



NAKIJIN!

WHAT?

I'M HUNGRY! MAKE ME FOOD!



I HAVE NEWS!

MOMONOI OF THE NORTH—

--IS SENDING PUNITIVE FORCES AGAINST TATARA!



HE'S
GATHERING
FORCES
IN DAZAIFU,
KYUSHU.

SINCE
HE FAILED
TO TAKE
OVER
OKINAWA.

WE
THINK
HE'S
TRYING
TO
RECOVER
TERRITORY,

FROM
THERE,
HE WILL
TRY TO
CONQUER
SAKURAJIMA!



WE
CAN
WORK
WITH
THEM...

AND
ATTACK
MOMONOI
FROM
BOTH
SIDES.



...SAY,
SHURI.

WHAT
IF WE
JOINED
FORCES
WITH
TATARA?

I'VE
BEEN
THINKING...



HE'S
GOING
TO MAKE
A FOOL
OF ME...

MOMONOI
THINKS
HE CAN BE
COMPLACENT.

AND
TAKE
DOWN
TATARA.

DAMN
HIM.



NAKI-
JIN!

COME
WITH
ME!

YUNA,

TAKE
CHARGE
HERE!



IF...

THAT
CAN
NOT
BE
DONE.

HEAVEN
AND
EARTH
WERE TO
CHANGE
PLACES...
EVEN
THEN...



I DON'T
WANT
TO
HEAR
IT!

BUT...



...BUT...

...OF
THE
SITU-
ATION.

I COULD
TAKE
ADVANTAGE...

VERTICAL TAM-TAM TIME①

NAKIJIN'S PROFILE:

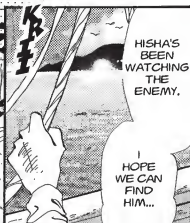


Born on July 1, he's a Cancer, blood type A. He's one year older than Shuri.

He grew up as an honest, upright person, so he's a very sweet, loving son. I like him a lot. He's also very skilled, so I'm looking forward to his future exploits!

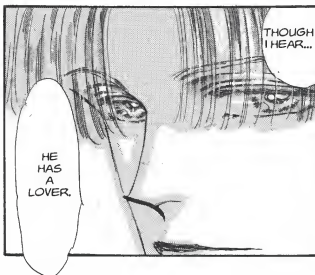
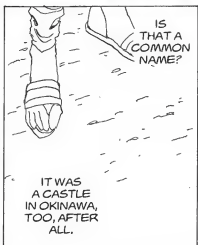
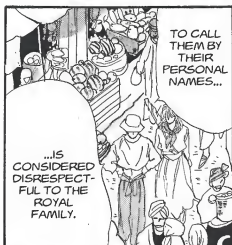
TAMU





TOSA--
SADA CAPE





DO I WANT
TO SEE
HIM AS
INHUMAN
AND EVIL?

AM I
AFRAID
TO FIND
OUT?

I SAY
HE'S MY
SWORN
ENEMY...

BUT
I'M SO
IGNORANT.

I DON'T
KNOW
ANYTHING
ABOUT THE
RED KING.

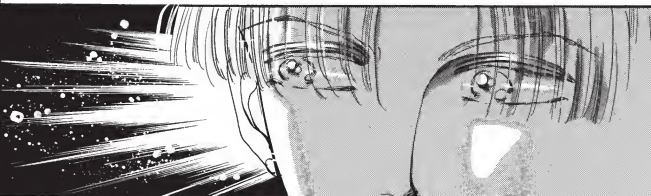
DO I WORRY...

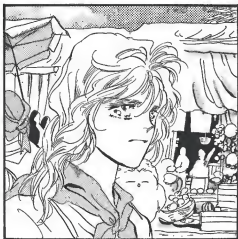
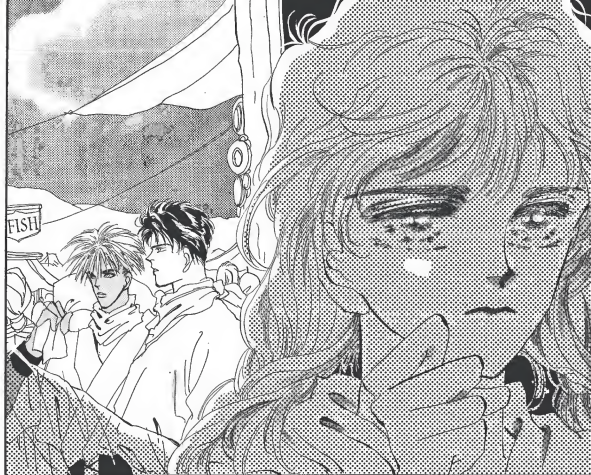
...THAT LIKE SHIDO,
HE MIGHT HAVE
LOVED ONES?

...LOOKING
THE
RED KING
IN THE
FACE.

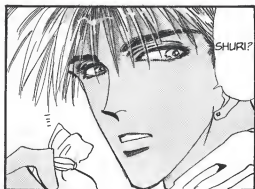
IN MY
HEART...

I'M
STILL
AVOIDING...

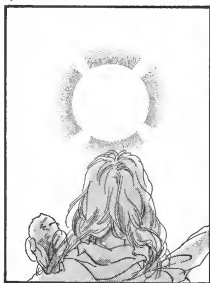








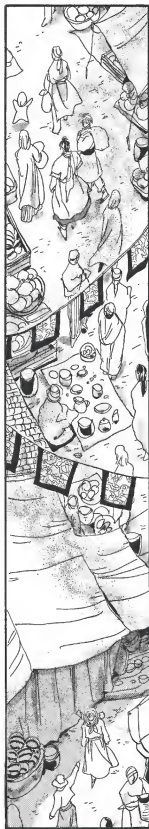
WALLET

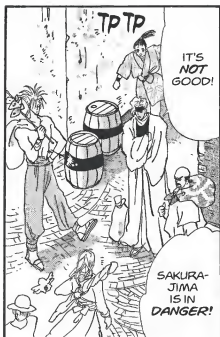


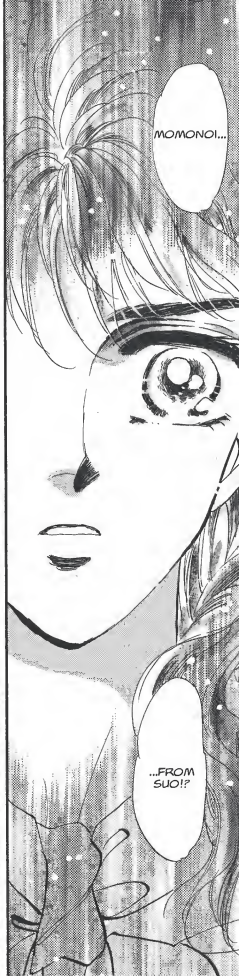


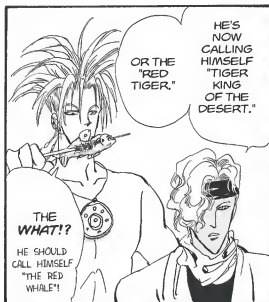
SARASA...

SHURI...!?











WAIT...

TATARA,
WE
SHOULD
GET
BACK,
TOO.

TATARA?

HISHA,
CAN YOU
GIVE THIS
NEWS TO
CHACHA?

SURE.

BUT
WHAT
ABOUT
YOU?

MOMONOI
IS THE
ONE...

...WHO
WREAKED
HAVOC ON
OKINAWA.



...WE
SHOULD
GO TO
SUO...

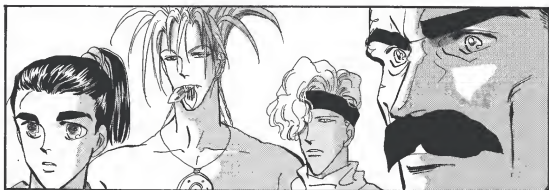
AND
UNDERMINE
MOMONOI
FROM
BEHIND!

THAT'S
NOT TRUE!
TATARA'S
PRESENCE
MAKES A
HUGE
DIFFERENCE!

THERE
AREN'T
MANY OF
US
HERE.

WE WON'T
ADD
SIGNIFI-
CANTLY
TO OUR
FORCES.

MORE
IMPORTANTLY...

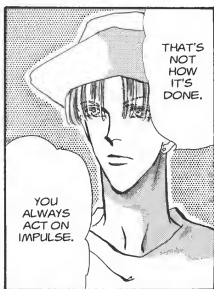


THAT'S
NOT...



YOU SHOULD
START WITH
A MORE
ATTAINABLE
TARGET,
NOT BY
ATTACKING
A MAN
DIRECTLY
UNDER
KING UKON.

THAT'S
NOT
WHAT I
MEANT!



THAT'S
NOT
HOW
IT'S
DONE.

YOU
ALWAYS
ACT ON
IMPULSE.



TELL
CHACHA
WE'LL BE
THERE--

BEFORE
THAT
ARMY
GETS TO
SAKURAJIMA!

OUR
DEADLINE
IS ONE
WEEK...

NO,
FIVE
DAYS!

YOU
HAVE
A
PLAN?

LET'S
GO FOR
IT!

IF
SO...



...WE'LL
TRY TO
STRIKE
SUO BY
OUR-
SELVES!

BUT
FOR
NOW...



WILL
THEY
LET
US IN?

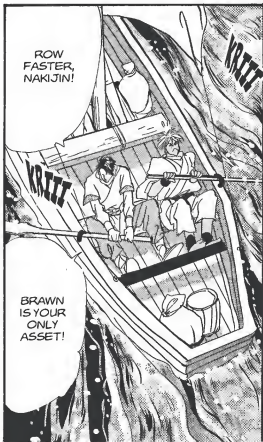
EVEN
IF WE
GET TO
SUO...

YOU ALWAYS
INSULT ME
SOMEHOW.



I'LL
FIND
A WAY.

I KNOW
MY WAY
AROUND
MY OWN
CITY.



ROW
FASTER,
NAKIJIN!

BRAWN
IS YOUR
ONLY
ASSET!



WHILE
MOMONOJI IS
PREOCCUPIED
WITH TATARA,
I'LL TAKE
SUO BACK
FOR MYSELF!



I WONDER
IF I COULD
SET UP THE
COUNCIL OF
FOUR....?

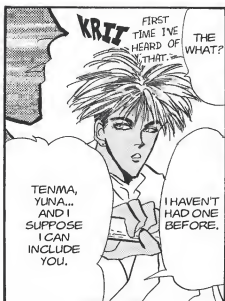


"SUPPOSE"!?

IF
IT'S A
"COUNCIL
OF
FOUR,"

WHO'S
THE
LAST?

THERE
HAVE
TO BE
FOUR
OF THEM.



THE
WHAT?

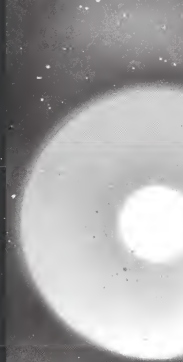
TENMA,
YUNA...
AND I
SUPPOSE
I CAN
INCLUDE
YOU.

I HAVEN'T
HAD ONE
BEFORE.



I BET THE
CONSTRUC-
TION
OF THE
AQUEDUCT
IS STILL
STALLED.

AQUE-
DUCT?





CRIMSON TALE 2: CROSSING



BEAUTIFUL
SUO.

THE
WIND
WHISPERS
IN THE
OLIVE
GROVES.

BIRDS
FLOCK
TO THE
SPRINGS.

MY
RED CITY
IS VERDANT
GREEN...

(FROM
"POEM
IN PRAISE
OF SUO")

WHEN THE
SUN BURNS
AND THE
SAND
CHAFES,
COME
TO ME.



TINY TAM-TAM TIME ①

It's not like I'm trying to keep up with the latest fad, but I really like Japanese mystery novels (especially ones by young writers). ♡ If you read any you really like, please let me know! ...♡

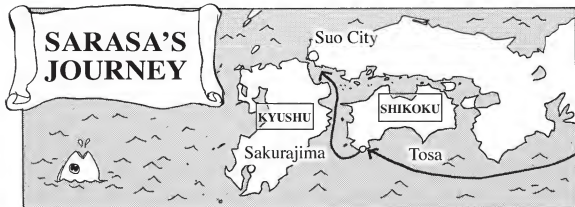
Reading while soaking in the tub is the best. ♡



I can't always take the time, though. ♡

A lot of my readers send me bath salts and oils. I'm so lucky! ♡

SARASA'S JOURNEY



MOMONOI
OF THE NORTH
GOVERNOR
OF SUO

YOU CAN
PAINT
ALL YOU
WANT
IN HERE.

YOU
SHOULDN'T
BE MINGLING
WITH
COMMONERS.

HAVE
YOU
FOR-
GOTTEN
YOU ARE
MY HEIR?

HELLO,
FATHER.

YES,
I AM.

TO
WORK
ON A
PAINTING.



SHOULDN'T
YOU GIVE
THE CITY
BACK TO
HIM...

BEFORE
YOU
CHANGE
IT TOO
MUCH?

I HEAR
THE RED
KING
IS
ALIVE.

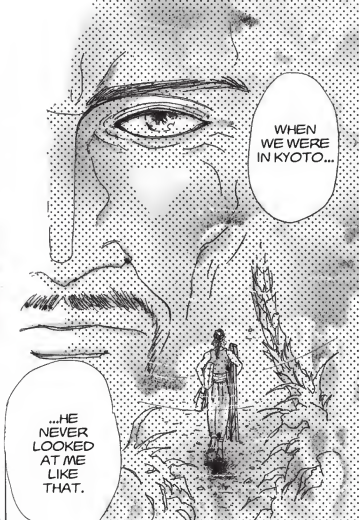
WELL...

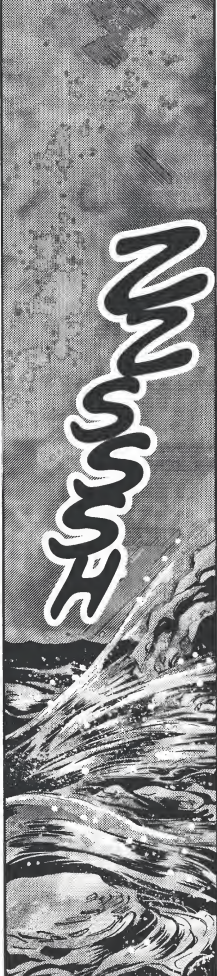
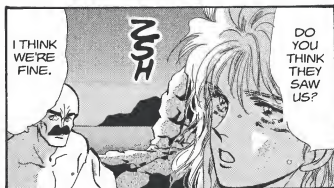
HM?

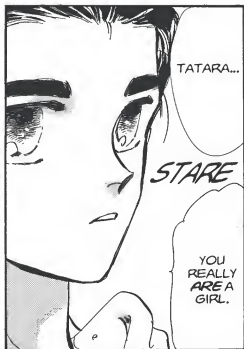
HOW'S
THE SUO
RENOVATION
PROJECT?

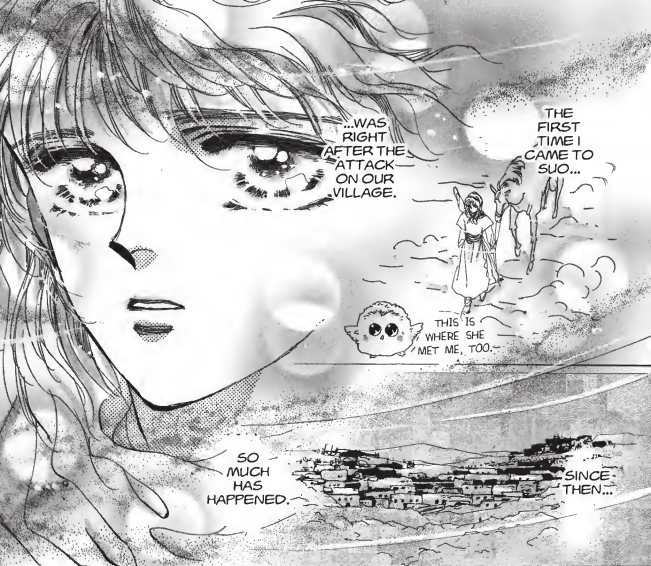
THE
CONSTRUCTION'S
BEHIND
SCHEDULE.











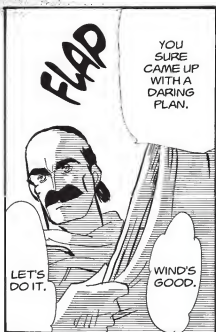
...WAS
RIGHT
AFTER THE
ATTACK—
ON OUR
VILLAGE.

THE
FIRST
TIME I
CAME TO
SUO...

THIS IS
WHERE SHE
MET ME, TOO...

SO
MUCH
HAS
HAPPENED.

SINCE
THEN...



FLAP

YOU
SURE
CAME UP
WITH A
DARING
PLAN.

LET'S
DO IT.

WIND'S
GOOD.



WE'LL
HAVE A
BETTER
SENSE OF
THINGS
WHEN IT'S
LIGHT OUT.

THEY'LL
BE ABLE
TO SEE
FROM THE
PALACE.

THIS
LOOKS
GOOD.



IT
LOOKS
DESOLATE

YEAH.

IT WAS
BUSTLING
AND
SEEMED
TO BE
THRIVING
BEFORE.

RED PALACE

I'M
SORRY
TO
DISTURB
YOU!

LORD
MOMONO!!

LORD
MOMONO!!

WHAT?

LOOK
IN THE
SKY!!

IT MUST
BE HUGE
TO LOOK
SO
LARGE...

WHAT?

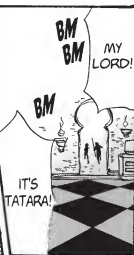
IT'S
JUST
A
KITE.

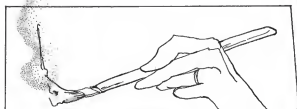
THE
WORDS!

WHAT
OF IT?

THE
SKY?

THE
SUN
ISN'T
EVEN...





HOW
MANY
TATARA'S
ARE
THERE!?

HE'S
IN
THE
NORTH,
TOO!



PROTECT
THE
PALACE!



DON'T
LET
HIM
ESCAPE!

PWIIII



PWIIII



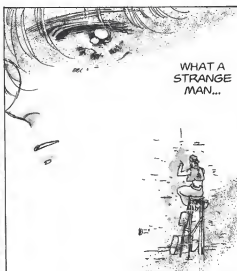
THERE!

IS
THAT
TATARA!?

CATCH
HIM!



THERE'S
SOMEONE
HERE...







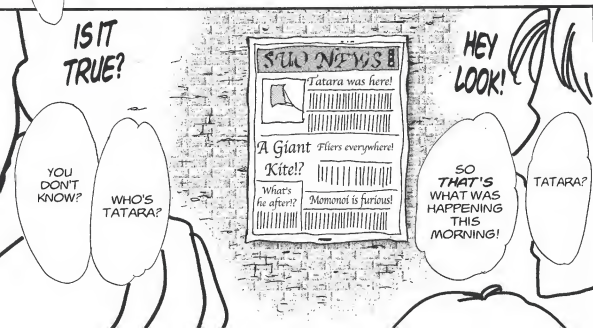
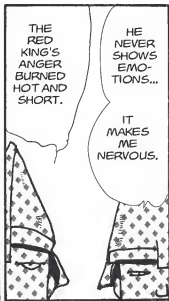
BZZ
BZZ

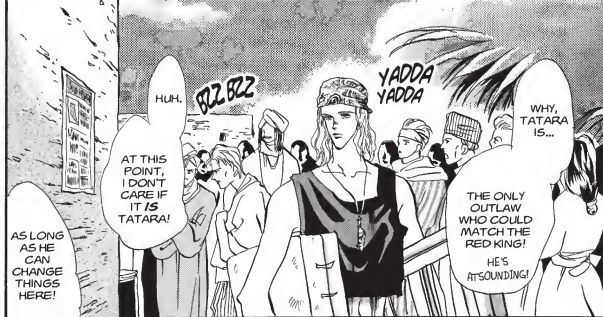
...VERY
ANGRY,
I THINK.

LORD
MOMONO!

BZZ
I THINK
HE'S
ANGRY.

MUTTER





AS LONG
AS HE
CAN
CHANGE
THINGS
HERE!

HUH.

BZZ BZZ

YADDA
YADDA

WHY,
TATARA
IS...

AT THIS
POINT,
I DON'T
CARE IF
IT IS
TATARA!

THE ONLY
OUTLAW
WHO COULD
MATCH THE
RED KING!
HE'S
ATSOUNDING!



NO
MATTER
WHAT
HAPPENS
TO THIS
CITY--

I
DON'T
CARE
WHO
DOES
IT!

WHAT
ABOUT
THE
RED
KING?

SOMEONE'S
GOT TO
DEAL WITH
MOMONO!

IT
CAN'T
GET ANY
WORSE
THAN
IT IS
NOW!



HOZUM!



POSTING IS
FORBIDDEN!

SO ARE
RADICALS!

WHO'S
PRINTING
THEM?

IF WE
DON'T
CATCH
EM
SOON
IT'LL
MEAN
OUR
HEADS!

SNEAKING
AROUND--
STICKING
THEM
UP--



HEY!
YOU
THERE!

THIS
DAMN...

STOP
READING
THAT
PAPER!





NO
OFFICERS
AROUND.

THEY
HAVEN'T
NOTICED.



THE
KYOTO
JOURNAL-
IST.

I'VE
HEARD
ABOUT
YOU
FROM
TARO...

YOU
DON'T
KNOW
HIM?

TARO...?

HE'S
AGEHA'S
FRIEND.

BUT I ALSO
PRINT A
NEWSPAPER
CALLED
"SUO NEWS."

I'M A
SEAMS-
TRESS...

MY
NAME'S
RENKO.

OH!

I
HAVEN'T
INTRO-
DUCED
MYSELF.



HAD
TO SPEAK
TO YOU.

I'M VERY
INTERESTED
IN YOUR
STORY...

...AS A
JOURNALIST.



HE
SURE
HAS
A LOT
OF
FRIENDS...

WE'RE
OBLIGED
TO HIM
AGAIN.



AGEHA!?

YES,
HE'S A
WELLSPRING
OF NEWS.



WELL...
OF
COURSE...

WILL
YOU
TELL
US YOUR
STORY?



WE TOLD
YOU TO
MOVE OUT
WEEKS
AGO!

THE
SUO
RENEWAL
PROJECT...

REQUIRES
THIS DISTRICT
TO BE TORN
DOWN!



ARE YOU
DEFYING
US,
WOMAN!?

THESE
ARE ROW
HOUSES FOR THE
POOR.

WHERE
ELSE
CAN THEY
GO?

YEAH!
YEAH!



PLEASE!
NO
VIOLENCE

CH!



THAT
MOMO-
NOI...

YOU'RE
BEING
EVICTED?

STAY
HERE.

HE WANTS
TO MAKE
THIS PLACE
A SMALL
VERSION OF
KYOTO.



TO MAKE
THIS CITY
ANOTHER
KYOTO,
BUILT ALONG
FENG SHUI
PRINCIPLES...

THIS
WILL
BE MY
LEGACY.

WE'LL
DESTROY
THE SQUALID
PARTS OF THE
CITY, AND IF
THE TENANTS
REFUSE TO
LEAVE...

WE CAN'T
HAVE THE
POOR LIVING
SO CLOSE
TO THAT.

...WITH A PALACE
TO SHELTER
KING UKON
WHEN HE VISITS.

WE'LL
SELL
YOU
OFF
AS A
SLAVE!

BITCH!

THAT'S
RIGHT!

YOU
CAN'T
DO THIS!

YOU
MUSTN'T
GO OUT!

TATARA!

OH--!

STEP
ASIDE!

WHAT?

URK!

CHF
CHF

MUST
YOU
INTERFERE
AGAIN?

S-SIR...

...IT'S
THAT
GUY!

CIVIL
SERV-
ANTS.

TSK.
WHOEVER
THOUGHT
OF CALLING
THEM
"CIVIL"?





IT'S MY
LATEST—
INSPIRED BY
FAIRY TALES!

COME,
NOW.

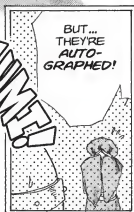
WHY
NOT
ENJOY
SOME
ART?



ENRICH
YOUR LIFE!



HOLY MOTHER!





OR WE
WILL FALL
INTO
CHAOS!

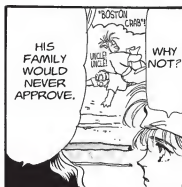
ONE
NEEDS
POWER
TO HOLD
THEM
DOWN!

POWER!

NO
NATION
CAN BE
PACIFIED BY
TRYING TO
PLEASE THE
MASSES.

"YOU
CAN'T
WIN."

FOOL!



WELCOME
TO THE
LEGENDARY
SEWERS
OF SUO.

WE
SURE
ARE.

SHURI?

WE'RE
GOING
THROUGH
THAT?

BUT...
WON'T
THERE
BE
BUGS...?

...OR
WORSE?

WE'RE
IN A
DESERT...

SO
PROBABLY
NOT.

COME
ON.

MOVE
IT.

THIS FROM
MR. LAND OF
THE PIT
VIPERS!

THE
SEWERS
GO
UNDER
THE
CITY...

AND
LEAD
STRAIGHT
INTO
THE
PALACE.

IT'S A
STRAIGHT
SHOT AT
MOMONO!

**P
L
I
S
H**

IT'S
NASTY.
I DON'T
LIKE IT.

THERE'S
NO
OTHER
WAY?

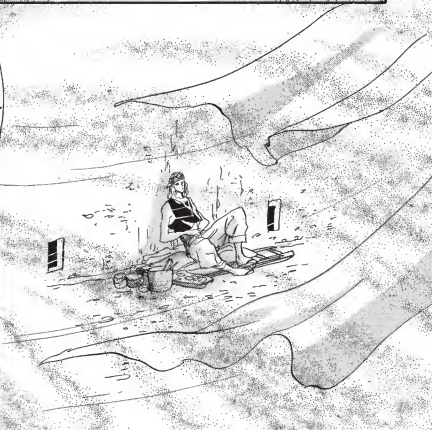
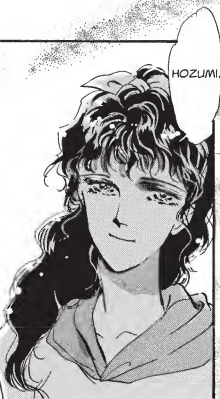
NO.

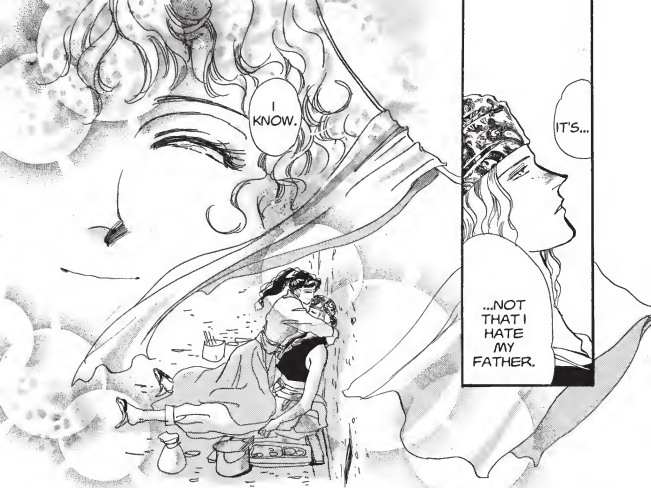
THEY
KNOW
WHAT I
LOOK LIKE
HERE.











I
KNOW.

IT'S...

...NOT
THAT I
HATE
MY
FATHER.



...IN
ORDER
TO BRING
CHANGE
INTO
THE
WORLD.
DID
YOU
KNOW...

I
HOPE,
ONE
DAY,
IT
WON'T
BE
NECESSARY
TO KILL...



...WAS
MIGHTIER
THAN
THE
SWORD?

...THERE
WAS
ONCE
A TIME
WHEN
THE
PEN...

 NOON

Nakijin is very meticulous and hard working.

EVERYTHING
MUST BE
TIDY!

MUST
BE
CLEAN!

He volunteers to cook, clean and do laundry.

I WISH HE'D
SHUT UP

BUT I'M
GLAD HE'S
AROUND.

Will never say
this out loud.

TAKU

WHAT'S IT SAY? —

REALLY?

WHAT'S THIS?

AN
INTERVIEW
WITH
TATARA!?

IT'S THE
SECOND
SUO
NEWS
TODAY!

DISPERSE!
OR WE'LL
STRIKE!

DON'T
READ
THAT!

THEY'RE
PROBABLY
EVEN
HIDING
HIM.

YES,
SIR!

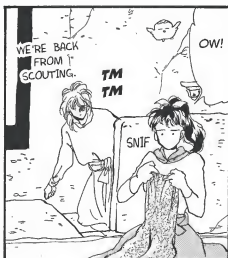
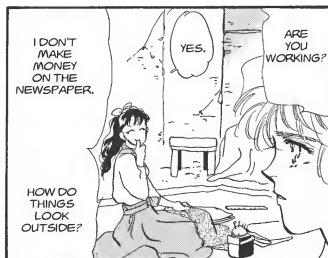
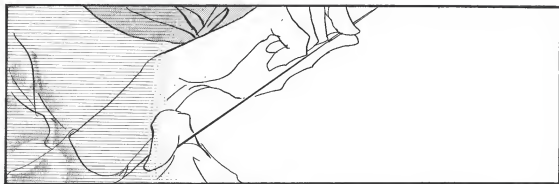
FIND
WHOEVER
PRINTS
THIS.

CLEARLY
THEY'RE
IN CONTACT
WITH
TATARA.

WHAT
WE'VE
LEARNED
IS...

ABOUT
THE
WOMAN
YOUR
SON IS
SEEING...

MY
LORD.



RENKO...

WHAT
ARE THEY
BURNING
IN THE
PLAZA?

RENKO.

NAPPING TO STAY
AWAKE AT NIGHT.

IS THAT
BECAUSE
SHE HAS
A LOVER
CLOSE
BY...?

SHE'S SO
FEMININE.

...DOESN'T
LOOK LIKE
A REBEL
LEADER
AT ALL.

THEY
HAVE A
BONFIRE.

OH,
THAT.
EVERYDAY,
AROUND
THIS
TIME...

...AND
MY NEWS-
PAPER.

DESPITE THE
TERRIBLE COST OF
PAPER.

ALSO
BOOKS...

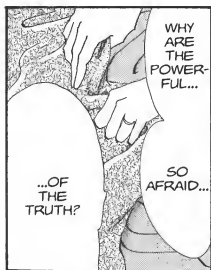
NOT
JUST.

THEY'RE
BURNING
PEOPLE!?

WHAT!?

TO
BURN
REBELS...

AND
ESCAPED
SLAVES.





THAT'S
THE
WORLD...



...I'M
DREAMING
OF.

THE
SAME
WORLD...

I KNOW
IT.

AND
HAVE
IT BE...

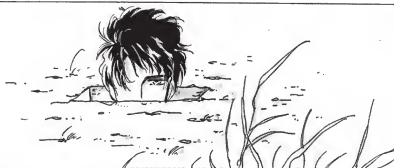
I JUST
WANT
TO SAY...

...I LOVE
THE
WHOLE
OF MY
COUNTRY.

...THE
TRUTH!

ONCE
HELD A
MARKET-
PLACE.

THIS
PLAZA...



SUO...

YOU
HAVE
BEEN
RUINED.



I CAN
SMELL
IT...



...IN
THE
AIR.

ONE LOOK
TELLS ME
EVERYTHING.



SHIDO...

HE GAVE SO
MUCH OF
HIMSELF TO
PLANNING IT.

PROS-
PEROUS...

...AND
FREE.

FIGHTING
THE CLIMATE,
BRINGING
WATER.

THIS
WAS
THE
CITY
HE
MADE.

A CITY
ALIVE.
A CITY...

...TO
LEAD THE
WORLD
FORWARD.



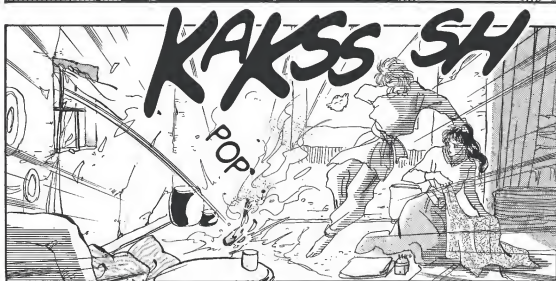






...WITH PEOPLE WHO DEPEND ON VIOLENCE.

SEE, THIS IS THE PROBLEM...







I CAN'T
LOVE
THIS
COUNTRY...

I CAN'T
RESPECT
THOSE
WHO
DESTROY.

...WHEN
IT'S
RULERS
ONLY
DESTROY.

WOULD
THINGS
CHANGE
IF WE
KILLED
MOMONOI?

BUT...

THAT'S
NOT
THE
WAY.

THERE'D
ONLY BE
ANOTHER
RULER.

IT'S
NOT
THE
WAY.

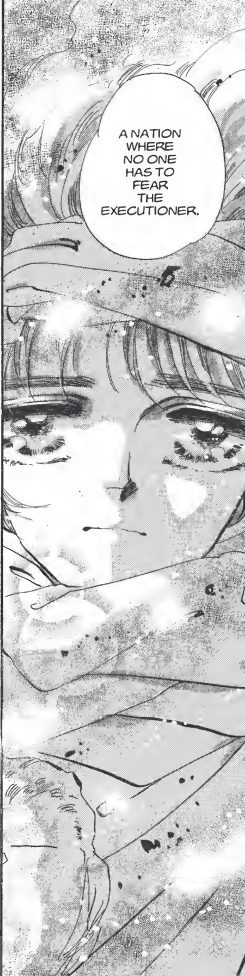
AND...

MOST
IMPORTANT...

A NATION
WE BUILD
OURSELVES...
TOGETHER.

WITH
NO
SLAVES.

WE
NEED A
NATION
WITH **NO**
RULER.



LOOK!

YOU'RE
TATARA!?

IT'S
HIM!

OH!

TATARA!?

TATARA!?



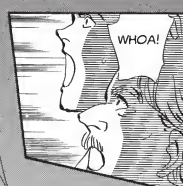
GET
AWAY!

TATARA,
LOOK
OUT!

RAA

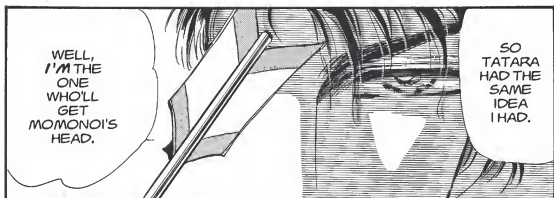
USE
YOUR
BOWS!

HOW
DARE
HE!



WHOA!



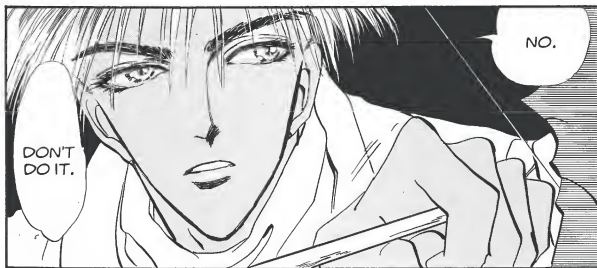


Tatara
was
here!





CRIMSON TALE 3: STORM CLOUDS







OKINAWA
WAS
ATTACKED...



...ON
MOMONOI'S
ORDERS.



WHY
NOW!?

THE
BATTLE IN
OKINAWA!?

NOW
LOOK!
HE'S
GETTING
AWAY!



YES,
I DO.



IS
IT...

...TO
AVENGE
YOUR
BROTHER'S
DEATH!?

DO
YOU
PLAN...



NAKIJIN!

PUSH
PUSH

WAIT!

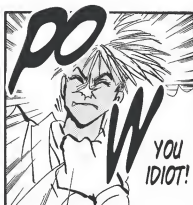
I WON'T
JUST
NOTICE
WHEN
SOMETHING'S
WRONG!

I'M NOT
THAT
SENSITIVE!

IF
YOU'RE
SMILING
ALL THE
TIME--

I
CAN'T
TELL!

YOU
HAVE TO
TALK
TO ME!

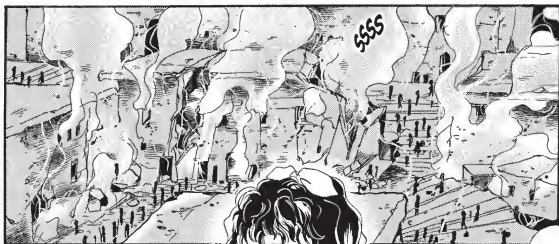






HOW
DID HE
USE IT
ALL...?

I HAD
A LOT OF
GUNPOWDER,
TOO.



WE...

MUST
GO
TO
PRESS
AGAIN.

BZZ
BZZ
LOOK!
IT'S
TERRIBLE!

AND
THEN
TATARA
APPEARS.

YES.

THE
OFFICIALS
FORCE
EVICTIONS.

BURN.
DOWN
HOMES.

RENKO.

THIS
IS A
BIG
STORY.



RENKO!



LORD HOZUMI WISHES TO TALK TO YOU.

PLEASE, COME WITH ME.



YES.



EXCUSE ME. ARE YOU RENKO?

822
822



SHUMP

IT WILL ONLY MAKE THINGS WORSE FOR LORD HOZUMI.

PLEASE DON'T STRUGGLE.



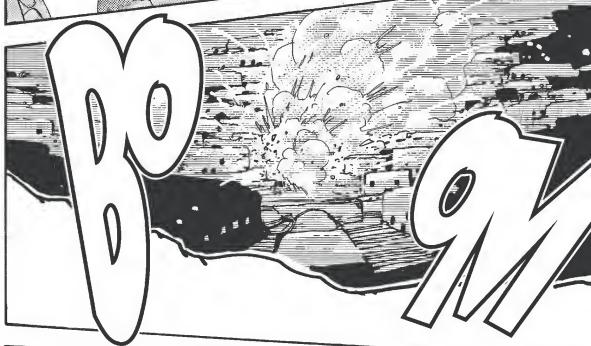


WHY!?

WHAT!?

THE
GOVERNMENT
HAS TAKEN
HER!

HOO!



THIS
IS A
MESSAGE
TO TATARA!



🌙 NIGHT

He folds the clothes he'll wear tomorrow and puts them by his pillow...

GOOD NIGHT.



MIDNIGHT

🌙

HONESTLY!

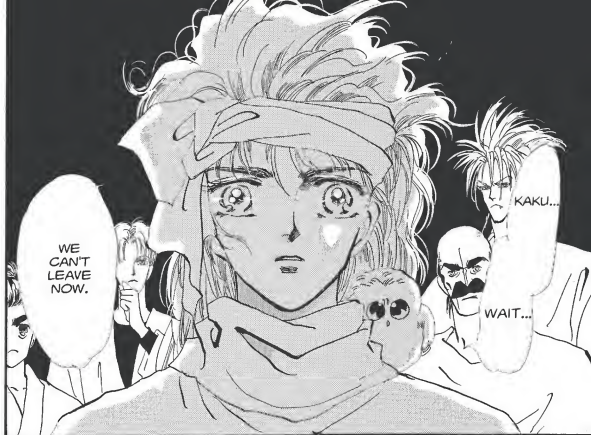
Hard worker.

YOU'LL CATCH A COLD.



Shuri doesn't know that Nakijin fixes his blankets for him...







RENKO!

...STUBBORN
WENCH.



AND
REPENT
YOUR
CRIMES.

WE'LL
LET YOU
GO IF YOU
ANSWER
OUR
QUES-
TIONS...

OR
ELSE
YOU CAN
SPEND
THE REST
OF YOUR
LIFE...

DIS-
FIGURED.



WE
KNOW
YOU
WERE
SHELTER-
ING
TATARA.

WHERE
IS HE
NOW?

WHO
ELSE
HELPS
YOU WITH
THE
NEWS-
PAPER?

WHY
CAN'T
YOU
JUST
TELL
US?



THERE!
IT'S
THAT
REBELLIOUS
ATTITUDE!

THAT
IS YOUR
CRIME!



WHAT
IS THERE
TO
REPENT?

WHAT
DID
I DO?



DID I
KILL
ANYONE?

DID I
STEAL
ANYTHING?



HAVE
I...

...COM-
MITTED
A
CRIME?

WHAT!?



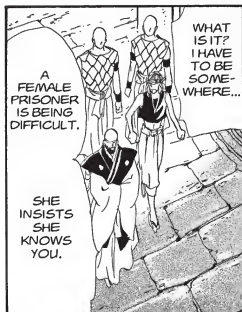
FATHER?



K
C
H = HOZUMI.



NOW
LEARN
YOUR
LESSON!







WHAT'S
THIS?



...THIS
CREATURE
IS THE
WOMAN
YOU
LOVE!?

YOU
CAN'T
MEAN...



GO
BACK
TO
KYOTO.

COME,
MY
SON.



BA

RENKO!
!?

M



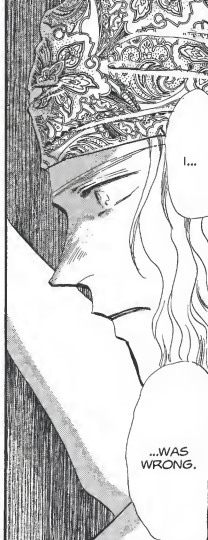
I HAVE
ENOUGH
POWER
NOW...

EVEN
TO WIN
YOU A
PRINCESS...

ONE
FROM
THE
ROYAL
FAMILY.

I CAN
ARRANGE
ANYTHING
FOR YOU.

A GIRL
FROM A
GOOD
FAMILY.



WHAT!?

FROM
THIS
MOMENT
ON,
WE ARE
NO LONGER
FATHER AND
SON.

I'M
LEAVING
THIS
PLACE.
NOW.

I
ONLY
WANT...

KEEP
YOUR
POWER.

TO LIVE
WITH
RENKO
AND PAINT.

KEEP
YOUR
MONEY.

AND
BREAK
IT!

TAKE
HIS
ARM...

LORD
HOZUMI...

SNAP
HIS
LEFT
ARM
IN
TWO!

YOU
ARE
MY
HEIR!

DAD...

BREAK
IT!

FOR-
GIVE
US!

DAD!

BREAK
IT!

YOU
WILL
NEVER
PAINT
AGAIN!

L-LORD
MOMONOI!?







THROW
STONES
AT
HER!



OH--!

KAK
TAK

IF YOU
DON'T--
WE'LL
KNOW
YOU'RE
HER ALLY,
TOO!

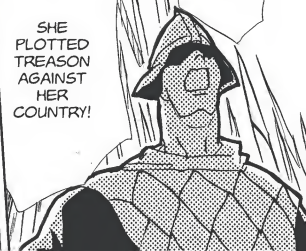


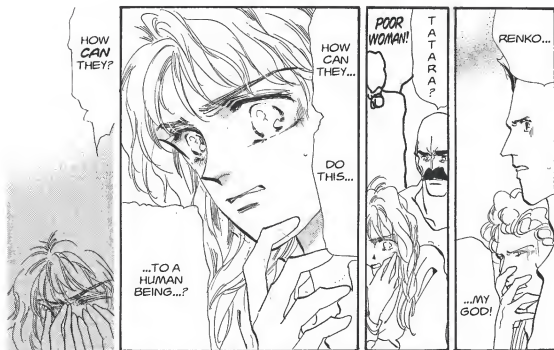
THIS
WOMAN
HELD LORD
MOMONO!
IN
CONTEMPT!

SHE
PRINTED
THE
FORBIDDEN
NEWSPAPER
CALLED THE
SUO NEWS!

SHE
AIDED
TATARA!

SHE
PLOTTED
TREASON
AGAINST
HER
COUNTRY!





I KNOW...

...YOU
UNDERSTAND.

DO
PEOPLE
BECOME
MEEKER...

...THE
MORE
THEY'RE
OPPRESSED?

AS
STEEL IS
TEMPERED
WHEN IT'S
HAMMERED.

NO.

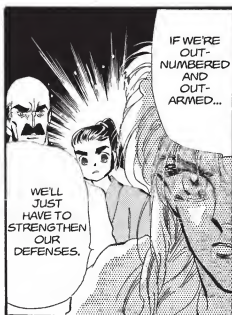
THEY
BECOME
STRONGER.

DON'T
CRY.

SO
PLEASE...

...BECAUSE
I WANTED
TO. I

I DID
WHAT I
DID...





THIS DANCE...
PLEASE STOP.

LORD MOMO-
NOI...

IT
SUMMONS
THE GHOST
OF A
LOCAL
GENERAL
FROM THE
PERIOD OF
WARRING
STATES.

BUT IN
THIS
LAND,
I'M
AFRAID...

IT'S
BEEN
FORBID-
DEN
FOR A
LONG
TIME.

GENERAL
'OUCHI!'

WHAT!?

BUT
WHY!?

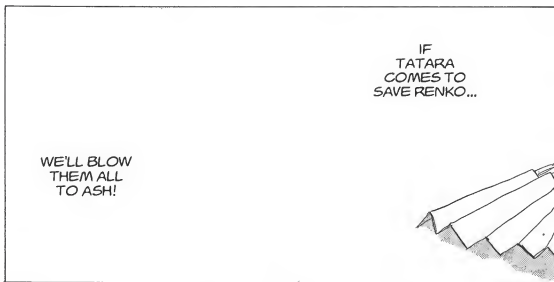
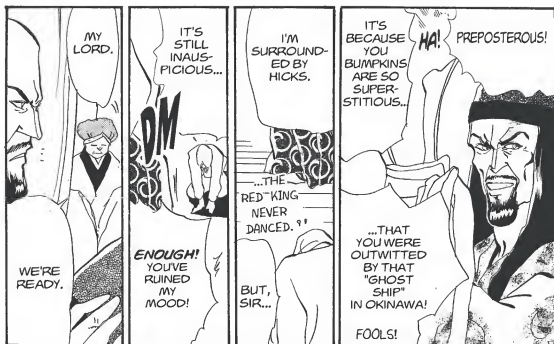
I
PERFORMED
IT OFTEN
WHEN I WAS
IN KYOTO.

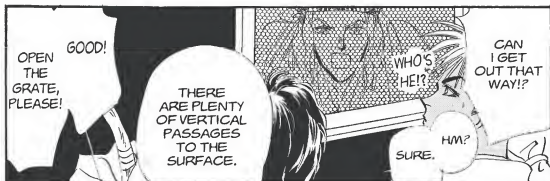
IT'S A
PERFECT
CELEBRATION.

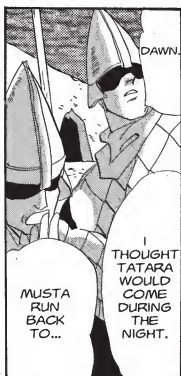
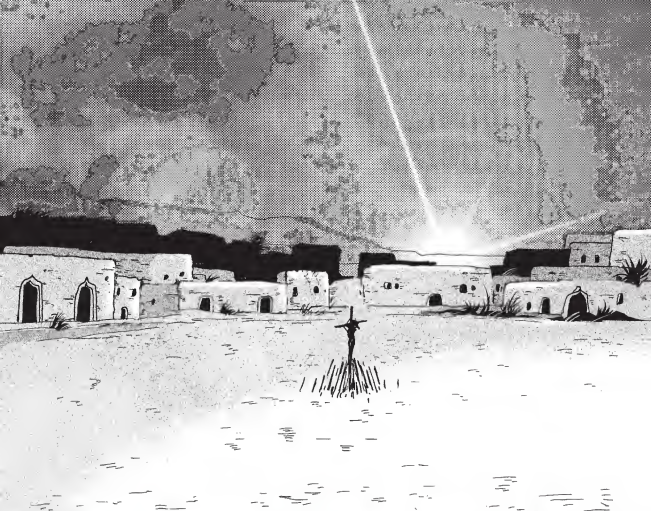
IT
DEPICTS A
VICTORY--
QUITE
RARE FOR
NOH.

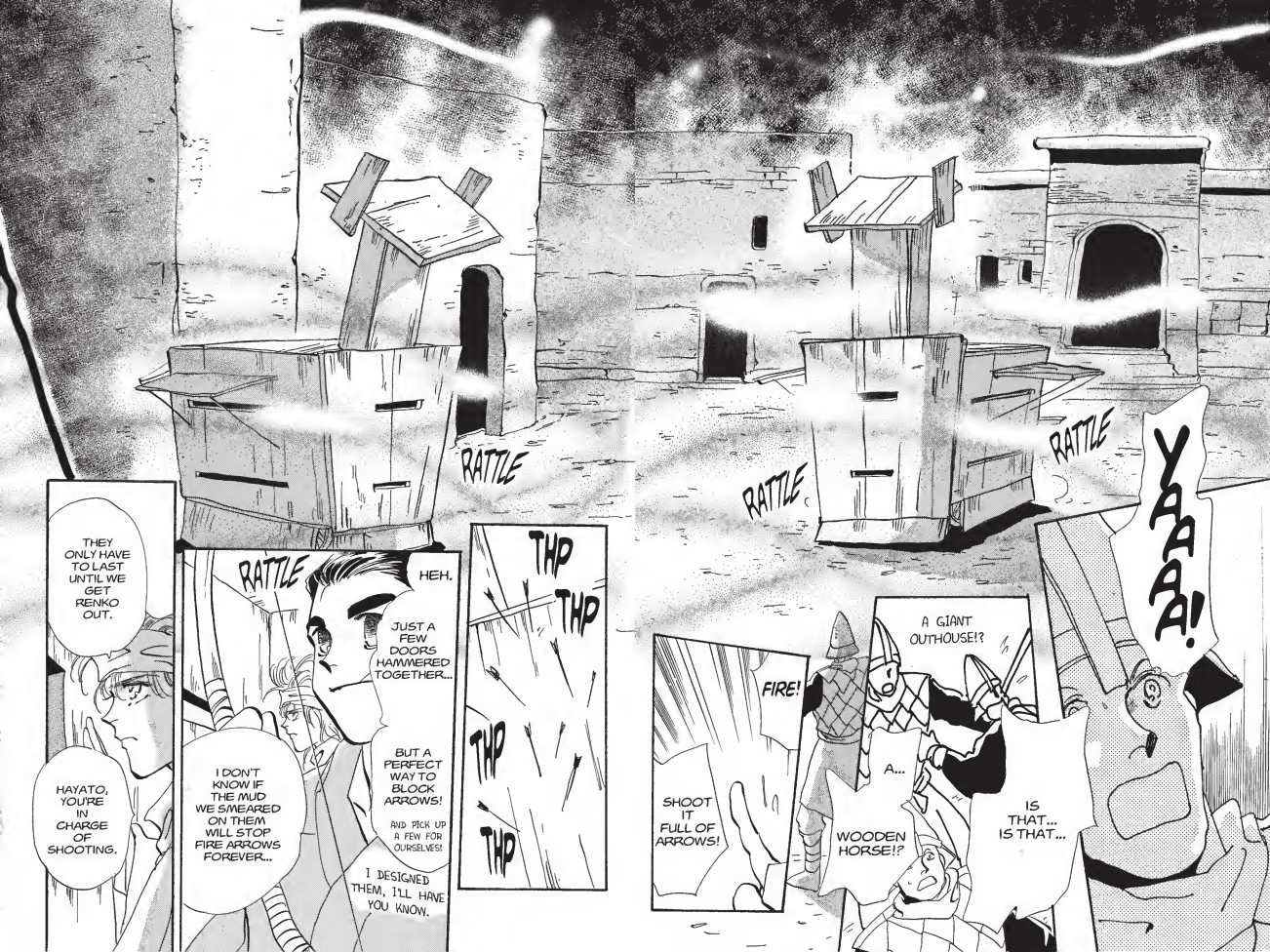
IT'S
FROM A
CLASSIC
NOH PLAY,
"TAMURA."

WHY?









THEY
ONLY HAVE
TO LAST
UNTIL WE
GET
RENKO
OUT.

HAYATO,
YOU'RE
IN
CHARGE
OF
SHOOTING.

I DON'T
KNOW IF
THE MUD
WE SMEARED
ON THEM
WILL STOP
FIRE ARROWS
FOREVER...

RATTLE

HEH.

JUST A
FEW
DOORS
HAMMERED
TOGETHER...

BUT A
PERFECT
WAY TO
BLOCK
ARROWS!
AND PICK UP
A FEW FOR
OURSELVES!

I DESIGNED
THEM, I'LL HAVE
YOU KNOW.

RATTLE

THP
THP

THP
THP

RATTLE

RATTLE

YAA
A!

FIRE!

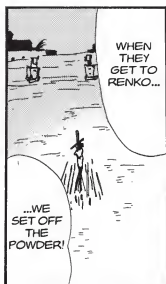
SHOOT
IT
FULL OF
ARROWS!

A GIANT
OUTHOUSE?!

A...

WOODEN
HORSE?!

IS
THAT...
IS THAT...





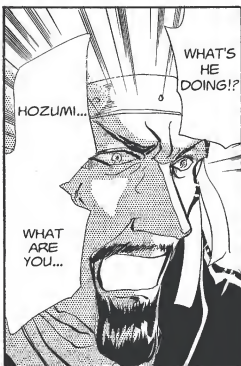
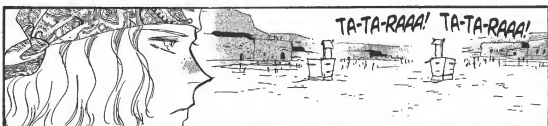
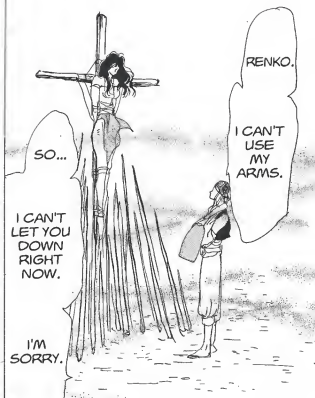
HOW DID
THAT FOOL
GET OUT!?

HOZUMI!?

HOW DID
HE GET
INTO THE
MIDDLE
OF ALL
THIS!?

AND
HOW DID
HE GET
THROUGH
OUR MEN!?

HOZUMI...







I HAD
NICE
CLOTHES
TO WEAR.
I ATE
GOOD
FOOD.

I WAS
BORN...

...INTO
A RICH
FAMILY.



I KNEW
NOTHING
ABOUT THE
WORLD.

UNTIL I
CAME
TO SUO
AND MET
RENKO...



IT CAN
ONLY
SOUND
NAIVE.

IF I TRY TO
MAKE A
SPEECH NOW...



I JUST
DON'T
WANT
ANYONE...

...TO SHED
BLOOD.

...TO
MAKE
CHANGE?

WHY DO
THEY
THINK
KILLING
IS THE
ONLY
WAY...

CAN'T
THE
WORLD
BE
MADE
BETTER...

...THROUGH
CREATION
INSTEAD?

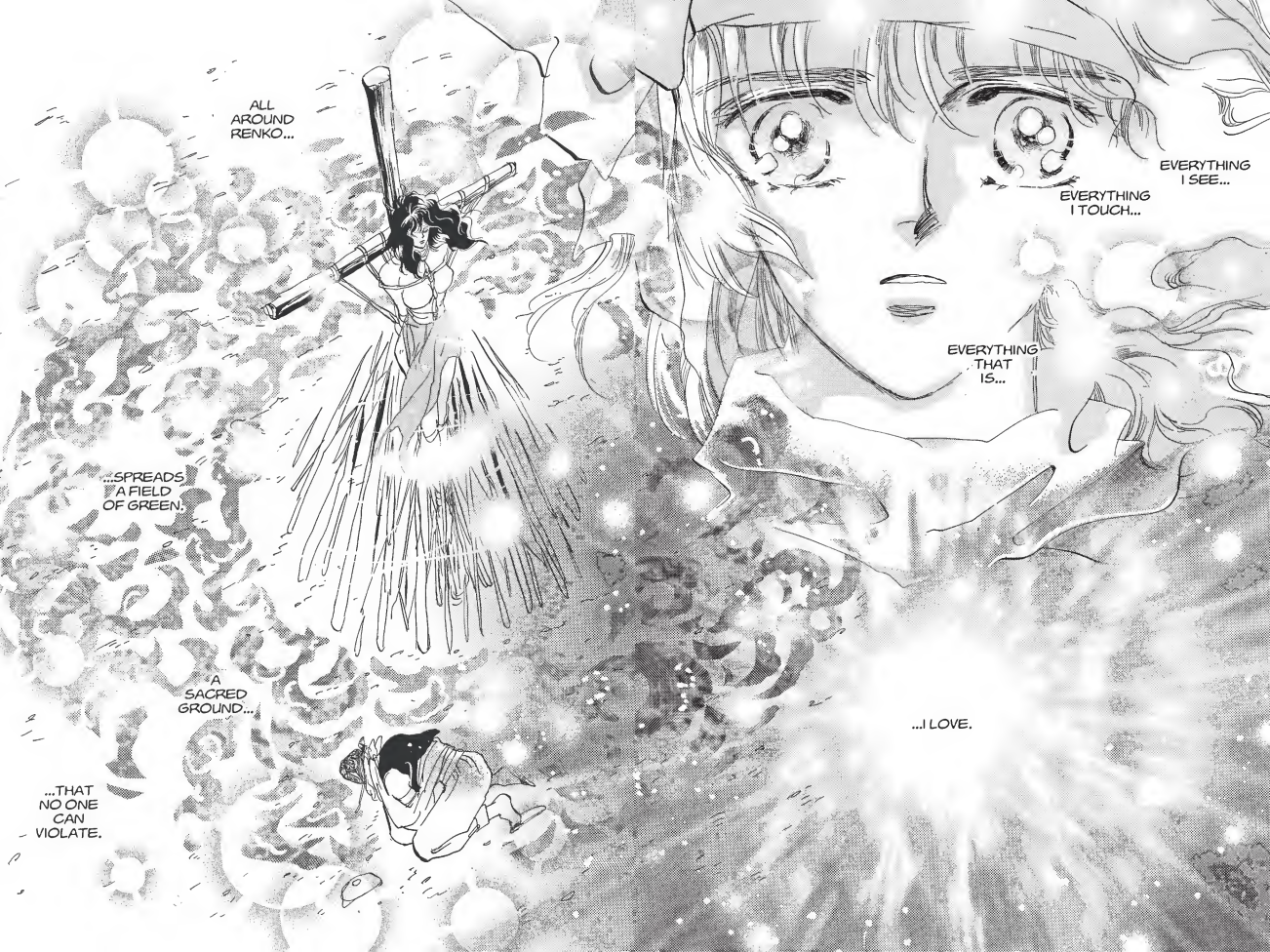
...WHO
CREATED.

I WANT
TO BE
SOMEONE...

RENKO...

IS THAT
NAIVE?

I
LOVE
YOU!



ALL
AROUND
RENKO...

EVERYTHING
I SEE...

EVERYTHING
I TOUCH...

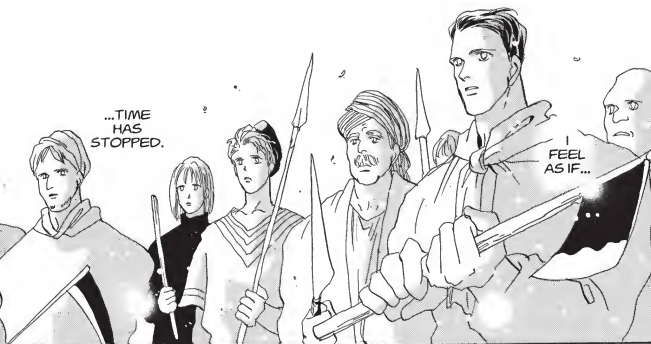
EVERYTHING
THAT
IS...

...SPREADS
A FIELD
OF GREEN.

A
SACRED
GROUND...

...THAT
NO ONE
CAN
VIOLATE.

...I LOVE.



...TIME
HAS
STOPPED.

I
FEEL
AS IF...



...CAN
MOVE.

NO
ONE...



...THAT
SUCH A
THING
COULD
BE.

I
NEVER
IMAGINED...

I DIDN'T
THINK IT
WAS
POSSIBLE.

HE HAS
NO
SWORD.

BUT HE'S
STILL
FIGHTING.

WE'RE NOT
FIGHTING
BECAUSE
WE WANT
TO.

WE
UNDER-
STAND.

THE
ONLY
WAY I
HAVE...

BUT IT'S
THE ONLY
WAY I
KNOW...





SPECIAL BONUS

TAM-TAM TIME

Yohoo, how is everyone?

TAMU.

DID YOU GET THE CD NOVEL?
SEND ME COMMENTS!

I'm glad to hear the reviews
have been positive! ♡ ♡

Oh, don't forget to get Deluxe Comics! ♡
I'm also doing illustration work here and
there.

Keep an eye out for it! ♡ ≡

I'm glad Tokyo's Yomiuri Giants
had a good season!
The Japan Series will be over
by the time this book comes
out.

I wonder how it'll
turn out...

I love baseball!



I rented another
apartment in the same
building as my office!
(one floor below me,
on the fourth floor.)

YAY!!



And so...



I keep
accumulating
stuff...

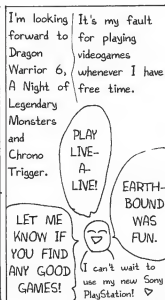
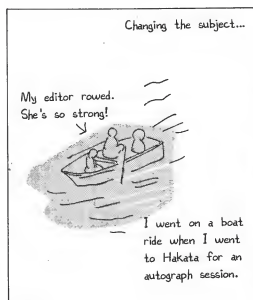
And I hate
cleaning.

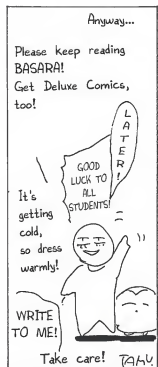
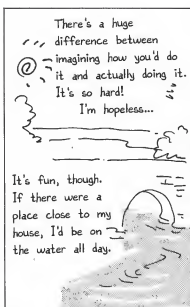
I HAVE
TO DO
SOME-
THING...

By the way,
my place is
a mess.

I put it
all into
piles when
my assistant
comes over,
but lately I don't even
have time for that. I
don't have a place for
her to sleep.







I'm illustrating a calendar for 1995, so keep an eye out! ♥

WHAT ABOUT WORK? (EDITOR)

Recommendations

If you enjoyed *Basara*, please try these other graphic novels:

NAUSICAA

A small kingdom's princess, Nausicaa has the depth of spirit and broadness of vision to become a legend. Torn from her people and thrown into the complex conflicts destroying post apocalyptic humanity, Nausicaa must somehow resolve the escalating battles that could end the world. Nausicaa's journey is as much a spiritual as a martial one, as is only appropriate from Hayao Miyazaki, director of such animation masterpieces as *Princess Mononoke* and the Academy Award-winning *Spirited Away*.



© 1983 Nibariki Co., Ltd.

CHICAGO

From *Basara*'s creator, Yumi Tamura, *Chicago* is an action-packed short series set in the near future. Capable Rei and her seasoned partner Uozumi are survivors. After being deployed to a half-finished manmade island to search for earthquake victims, their military rescue squad is bombed. Discovering the mysterious forces behind the bombing becomes their personal goal as they join a private rescue force that gathers secretly in a Shinjuku bar called "Chicago."



© 2001 Yumi Tamura/Shogakukan, Inc.

BANANA FISH

Akimi Yoshida's most famous series is filled with gritty action. When a man is gunned down in the gang-infested back alleys of 1980's New York City, it begins a complicated series of events that causes gang leader Ash to go up against mafia don "Papa" Dino. The series sends Ash and his allies across the country and against political intrigues in search of the truth behind the mysterious and deadly substance "Banana Fish."



© 1987 Akimi Yoshida/Shogakukan, Inc.

Editor's comments

What's with Masunaga's hair? His hairstyle is actually a classic arrangement for adult men from Japan's Yayoi Era (roughly 300BC - 300AD). Legendary heroes such as Yamato Takeru are usually portrayed with the same hairstyle. The Yayoi era is thematically significant because it is during this period the nation of Japan was created and because it predates the influential introduction of Buddhism from China.

Why does Hozumi hold a spoon so strangely? The most likely reason is that he is left-handed. Why should that matter? While left-handedness is as common in Japan as it is everywhere else, lefties are not usually allowed to remain lefties...unless they're baseball players. Classically, Japan's primary writing instrument was a brush. In order to properly write, the brush must move in a specific pattern, one that is exceedingly difficult to do left-handed. Tendencies toward conformity also come into play. When etiquette rules are all for right-handed people, how do you teach them to someone who insists on preserving their left-handedness?

Shuri sure does like his sweets! First it was *dango*, now it's *yokan*. Most commonly sweetened with azuki beans, yokan is a jelly treat made from *kanten*, or agar-agar, a kind of gelatin made from seaweed. Unlike animal-based gelatin, kanten is very firm and does not require cold to set nor to prevent melting. Yokan can have a variety of items in it, such as dried persimmons, chestnuts, or in the case of this volume, sweet potato. Sweet, and fairly heavy, it doesn't take much yokan to fill you up as a snack, and its sweetness makes it a perfect complement for the bitterness of tea.

Why did the guards compare Tatara's Trojan Horses to outhouses? This is one of those situations that doesn't translate because of cultural differences. While the term used, *omaru*, can mean a variety of old-fashioned toilet terms, the joke is rather modern. One of the common potty-training tools used in Japan is a plastic, swan-shaped potty-chair. Tatara's Trojan Horses resemble those swans more than they do horses.